

Remarks

Claims 1-8 are pending. Claims 1-8 are rejected. Claim 3 is objected to. Claims 1, 4, 7, and 8 are amended herein. No new matter is added. All rejections and objections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 is amended to overcome the Examiner's objection.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakamura, et al., (U.S. 6,553,031 – Nakamura).

Nakamura describes assigning entry priorities for addresses in a sub-routing table used by line interface boards in a switch. The priorities described in Nakamura are entry priorities for entry of addresses in the sub-routing table. If a connection establishment flag having a bit pattern "11" is detected in a packet, the entry priority of that address is sufficient to have it entered into the sub-routing table because it indicates the beginning of a packet stream directed to a particular address. If a disconnection flag having a bit pattern "10" is detected, the entry priority of the entry in the sub-routing table is reduced to allow that address to be overwritten because the disconnect flag indicates the end of the packet stream to that address. Nakamura never assigns packet priority *within a packet*, as claimed. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-8 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

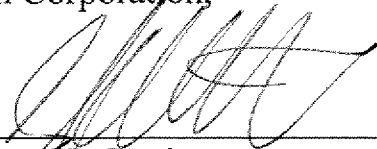
It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should further questions arise concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's

attorney at the number listed below. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account 50-6350.

Respectfully submitted,

3Com Corporation,

By



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